(ii) All failures/disruptions are thoroughly analysed and follow-up action taken.

(Hi) Refresher training is organized on a regular basis for safety critical category of staff.

Proposal for Mega Cities

† 536. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several States have sent the proposals for declaring their cities as Mega Cities;

(b) if so, the names of these cities; and

(c) the efforts made by Government thereon, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIAJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There were requests from Chief Minister of Gujarat and Chief Minister of Kerala for inclusion of Ahmedabad and Thiruvananthapuram respectively under Mega City Scheme.

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Infrastructure Development in Mega Cities, cities having a population of 40 lakh, as per 1991 census, were included. Since both Ahmedabad and Thiruvananthapuram were not having a population of 40 lakh as per 1991 census, these two cities were not included under the Mega City Scheme.

Mega City Scheme has since been subsumed under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched by the Government on 03.12.2005 for providing reforms linked Central assistance for select 63 cities. The scheme includes Ahmedabad and Thiruvananthapuram.

Environment in big cities

537. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects formulated and being implemented by Government for improvement of environment in the various small and big cities of the country during the last three years;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of amount granted by Government for this purpose during this period, project-wise; and

(c) the details of amount utilised so far, city-wise/project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Building by-laws for safety of life and property

538. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that heavy loss of life and property has been reported in the earthquake which struck the country few months ago;

(b) whether it is also a fact that possibility of occurrence of earthquakes of greater intensity in the country in future, particularly in Delhi and its adjacent areas has been expressed;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to tackle such a situation;

(d) whether Government would formulate building by-laws for the safety of life and property of people as in Japan;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has reported that the earthquake of magnitude 7.4 on Richter Scale, which hit Pakistan on 8.10.2005 also caused damage to property and loss of life in some parts of Jammu & Kashmir.

(b) The IMD has further reported that there is no scientific technique available in the world to forecast the future occurrence of earthquake with regard to space, time and magnitude and hence no specific prediction for earthquake for Delhi can be made. However, according to Seismic Zoning Map of India, published by the Bureau of Indian Standards on the basis of various scientific inputs, Delhi and its adjacent areas lie in seismic zone IV, which is considered as high damage risk zone.